United Nations A/64/371

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 September 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 135
Pattern of conferences

Letter dated 8 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 September 2009 addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee on Conferences containing the remarks of the Republic of the Philippines on your report entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/64/136) (see annex).

I would like to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 135.

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 8 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee on Conferences

I refer to the report of the Secretary-General on pattern of conferences (A/64/136) which will be discussed by the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session from 8 to 14 September 2009. Attention is particularly drawn to section V of the report pertaining to documents management.

The Philippines continues to recognize the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee. The significant progress in document issuance is indicated in paragraph 63 of the report. The Philippines remains convinced that the task force should be institutionalized as a standing mechanism to handle the documentation of the Fifth Committee in its successive sessions. The Philippines understands that institutionalization of the task force entails making it a standard operating procedure for cooperation and coordination between and among author departments on matters pertaining to documents management and that it will not have any programme budget implications. In order to further improve document issuance, the Philippines proposes that the Committee on Conferences consider stronger measures to ensure compliance by author departments with their document submission deadline obligations to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

Since further improvement of the documents management process is also dependent on adequate intervals between the adoption of new mandates by intergovernmental bodies and the time of consideration of the relevant documents, the Philippines suggests that the Committee on Conferences consider adjusting the biennial calendar of conferences so that the first and second resumed parts of the Fifth Committee will begin later than their customary commencement in the beginning of March and May, respectively, every year. The delay would be in line with the application of the 10-week and 6-week document submission rules. The Philippines is confident that the Committee can consider the consequences of the adjustment without unduly affecting the integrity of the other related important meetings.

The Philippines is of the view that involving all the major stakeholders, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Bureau of the Fifth Committee, is required in the multi-pronged approach to finding a solution to the perennial difficulties of late issuance of documents in the Fifth Committee. As such, the Philippines recommends that the Committee on Conferences must encourage the regularization of the meetings between the Chairpersons of the Fifth Committee and ACABQ to enhance communication between the two bodies on documentation matters. The regular meetings will promote coordination and greatly facilitate the preparation of a programme of work for the Fifth Committee, which will allow sufficient time for the proper consideration of the issued documents.

The Philippines hopes that its aforementioned proposals would be positively received by the Committee for subsequent recommendation to the General Assembly for approval.

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Ambassador and Permanent Representative